

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 8, 2009, the Office noted that claims 1-6 were pending and rejected claims 1-6. Claim 1 has been amended, claim 3 has been canceled, and, thus, in view of the foregoing, claims 1, 2 and 4-6 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections and objections are traversed below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office has indicated that claim 3 would be in a condition for allowance if re-written in independent form. The Applicants thank the Office for the consideration given the claims. The Applicants have taken allowable subject matter by amending the features of claim 3 into independent claim 1.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office asserts that the claim contains an antecedent basis issue.

The Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 1 introduces the features correctly for dependent claim 4.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ito, U.S. Patent No. 5,881,032 in view of Ogasawara, U.S. Patent No. 2005/0013225. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument and amendment.

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 3 which the Office has acknowledged as allowable.

Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 and its dependents are allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 103. It is also submitted that claims 1, 2 and 4-6 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional

fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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